Appointment of a special officer for conducting prosecutions in connection with the Satyagraha at Suchindram.

67. **MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they had appointed any special prosecutor for conducting prosecutions in connection with the *Satyagraha* at Suchindram;

(*b*) the terms on which he was so engaged;

(*c*) the reasons why it was found necessary to make such an appointment;

(*d*) the amount so far (8-4-1107) disbursed to him; and

(*e*) the stage at which these prosecutions stand now (8-4-1107)?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No terms were settled at the time when directions were given to Mr. S. Chakrapani Aiyar, Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil, to appear and conduct the Suchindram *Satyagraha* cases before the Additional District Magistrate's Court, Padmanabhapuram.

(*c*) The Government considered that the cases were important ones so as to necessitate the deputation of a Sirkar Vakil for conducting the same.

(*d*) No amounts have as yet been disbursed to him.

(*e*) The defence witnesses are being examined.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): With regard to the answer to part (*b*), may I know whether Mr. Chakrapani Aiyar has claimed any travelling allowance?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, he has.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I believe it has been disbursed.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He has claimed a certain amount but I think that the bill has not been paid.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know the amount claimed by him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not known.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Do the Government intend giving him the amount claimed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have sanctioned payment of travelling allowance; but they have not fixed the amount.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Do the Government intend giving him any remuneration over and above the travelling allowance?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That has not been decided. The Head Sirkar Vakil has recommended that a reasonable remuneration should be paid to him.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): So, am I to understand from the member that the Government would be obliged to give him an amount of remuneration consistent with the Head Sirkar Vakil's recommendation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are not obliged to do it. They will consider the equities of the case and then decide.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): With regard to part (c), may I know the nature of the importance involved in the case?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has been considered important by Government as it affects the long-standing practices obtained in the State.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Has it been the policy of the Government to appoint special prosecutors whenever cases affecting long-standing practices arise?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I can't say it is the policy of Government because such cases are extremely rare.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is the member aware that even murder cases are being handled by Prosecuting Inspectors?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Then, does the member mean to say that the importance of this case is greater than that of murder cases? Are murder cases to be placed only second to cases of this kind?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion. Cases affecting an individual are much less important than cases affecting the State or societies.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is murder a case which affects an individual or the State?

PRESIDENT: That is unnecessarily deviating from the question. It has nothing to do with the point at issue.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, we know that murder cases are generally being handled by Prosecuting Inspectors. I wish to know whether these Inspectors are not sufficient for conducting this case as well?

PRESIDENT: He has already said that it was not sufficient as the case was a very important one.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I merely want to know whether he attaches more importance to this case than to murder cases?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

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